

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6
Joint State Hearing
September 1, 2005

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Fisheries under consideration: | Non-Treaty recreational |
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2005 fall season
were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 28, 2005)*

WATER CONDITIONS AND STOCK STATUS

- The average water temperature in the Columbia River during August was the warmest since 1998, averaging 71.7° F, which exceeds both the recent 5-year (69.8) and 10-year (69.5) averages for the month. The current temperature at Bonneville Dam is 70.0° F which is slightly higher than average.
- Passage of fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam during August included 43,975 adults which represents 43% and 55% of the recent 5-year (102,474 adults) and 10-year (80,071 adults) average counts for the month. The approximate 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam for upriver bright Chinook is September 7th.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) plans to meet September 9th to review the fall Chinook run status.

LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Buoy 10 Sport

- Catch and effort in the Buoy 10 sport fishery began slow but increased substantially beginning August 22th.
- Chinook catch rates, Chinook harvest, and angler effort peaked on August 25th, 26th, and 27th, respectively. Since then, catch rates have decreased to 0.13 Chinook per angler. After a slow start, coho catch rates have improved recently with >0.19 kept fish/angler observed since August 29th.
- Through August 31st, an estimated 7,800 Chinook and 3,900 coho have been landed during 39,400 angler trips. Weekly effort and catch data are provided in the following table:

| Buoy 10 Catch Estimates for Washington and Oregon | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|-------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|
| Chinook/Angler | | | | Chinook Catch | | | | Angler Trips | | | |
| Date | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 ^a | Date | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 ^a | Date | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 ^a |
| Wk 31 | 0.05 | 0.04 | ---- | Wk 31 | 112 | 27 | ---- | Wk 31 | 2,181 | 673 | ---- |
| Wk 32 | 0.09 | 0.04 | 0.03 | Wk 32 | 323 | 100 | 50 | Wk 32 | 3,676 | 2,471 | 1,613 |
| Wk 33 | 0.19 | 0.23 | 0.11 | Wk 33 | 2,054 | 1,613 | 371 | Wk 33 | 10,969 | 7,121 | 3,502 |
| Wk 34 | 0.27 | 0.35 | 0.08 | Wk 34 | 6,585 | 5,624 | 902 | Wk 34 | 24,246 | 15,916 | 11,730 |
| Wk 35 | 0.22 | 0.18 | 0.32 | Wk 35 | 4,380 | 3,885 | 5,710 | Wk 35 | 19,940 | 22,118 | 17,572 |
| Wk 36 ^b | 0.16 | 0.29 | 0.16 | Wk 36 ^b | 2,238 | 3,974 | 813 | Wk 36 ^b | 14,210 | 13,544 | 5,015 |
| Wk 37 | 0.07 | 0.15 | | Wk 37 | 500 | 800 | | Wk 37 | 7,008 | 5,424 | |
| Wk 38 | 0.02 | 0.00 | | Wk 38 | 64 | 0 | | Wk 38 | 3,180 | 557 | |
| Wk 39 | 0.01 | 0.00 | | Wk 39 | 9 | 0 | | Wk 39 | 951 | 98 | |
| Total | 0.23 | 0.24 | | Total | 8,961 | 16,023 | | Total | 38,891 | 67,921 | |

^a In 2005, week 34=Aug. 15-21, week 35=Aug. 22-28, and week 36=Aug. 29-Sep. 4

^b 2005 week 36 data is incomplete

- Coded-wire tag data indicates upriver bright fall Chinook comprised 20.4% of the landed catch compared to the preseason expectation of 25.9%. Tule fall Chinook comprised 33.4% of the catch as compared to the preseason expectation of 46.1%.
- Based on harvest rates observed during August 29th-31st, approximately 10,800 (87% of 12,400 Chinook allocation) will be harvested through September 5th leaving 1,600 fish for the remainder of the season. Chinook harvest after Labor Day is typically less than 1,000 fish.

Lower Columbia River Mainstem Sport

- Chinook catch rates remained low during the majority of August with an estimated 2,000 Chinook kept during August 1-30. Catch rates in the Longview-St. Helens area improved dramatically on August 31 with 1-2 kept Chinook/boat.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing is scheduled for 1:00 PM Friday September 9, 2005 via teleconference to consider additional treaty Indian commercial fishing seasons.
- A Columbia River Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 AM Friday September 16, 2005 to consider non-Treaty commercial fishing periods for the late fall season. The location has yet to be determined.